

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 3, 1998

LB 1228

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, your light is on, but you have spoken three times. There are no other lights. I am going to recognize you to close. Yes, you're now recognized to close, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, and, Mr. Speaker, since I intend to keep us on this bill, if I don't get this one, I have some other amendments that I'm offering, and even though they take time, there are things I want to get into the record while we are talking about education and all this talk of gifted students. When they were talking about The Bell Curve and how inferior my people are, I made the comment that I've been around white people all my life and went to all their schools, and I hadn't found these white people were superior to me yet, and when...when they come along, by God, I am going to sure be happy to meet them. I haven't found them. I haven't seen them in law school. I graduated from Creighton Law School, didn't even attend classes, and I was the only black student there. And I didn't see those superior white people that they spend all their time writing these books about and teaching about in schools to show how inferior my people are. And although they humiliated me when I was in grade school, I didn't see white students who were superior to me in the ability to learn either, nor was that the case in high school. So somewhere these white people are hiding out, but it seems like they ought to be sufficient in number for us to find them very easily every time we look around, since they are going to write books and tell me that they are there. When I see programs such as this, I see it as another of those attempts to let the schools single out white kids, say they're superior, and the schools get money from the state to do it. If I had seen fair treatment in the schools now, then I wouldn't have the attitude that I have. Our children are in these so-called backward classes, the dumb rooms, out of all proportion to our numbers, and a lot of our children in the dumb rooms are not dumb, but white people make the decision that they will be there because they get more state money for every dumb kind, every kid you can label dumb, and put in that dumb room. I am the example of the black man who is not the most capable in our community, but I'd match what I'm able to do against that of what any white person I've ever been around can do, any white person in whose presence I've found myself. I won't take low to anybody. I'm talking about